		S DISTRICT COURT AND CARROTTE
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ANGEL RIVERA, Petitioner,))	U.S. P. S. P. P. P. C. J. P. P. C. J. P.
v.)	CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-10629-JLT
JOHN ASHCROFT, ¹ Respondent.)))	

RESPONDENT'S SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX TO MOTION TO DISMISS PETITION FOR WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

The respondent files the following documents as his supplemental appendix to his Motion to Dismiss Petition for Writ of Habeas Corpus:

- 1. Docket Sheets, Commonwealth v. Angel Rivera, 1996 ESCR Nos. 00832-838;
- 2. *Commonwealth v. Rivera*, 52 Mass. App. Ct. 321, 753 N.E.2d 823 (2001);
- 3. *Commonwealth v. Rivera*, 435 Mass. 1108, 762 N.E.2d 323 (2002);
- 4. *Commonwealth v. Rivera*, 61 Mass. App. Ct. 1113, 810 N.E.2d 1288 (2004);
- 5. *Commonwealth v. Rivera*, 442 Mass. 1108, 815 N.E.2d 1085 (2004);
- 6. Endorsement, Angel Rivera v. Paul Verdini, No. 02-CV-11185-MEL;
- 7. Docket Sheets, Angel Rivera v. Paul Verdini, First Circuit No. 03-2353; and
- 6. Chart Detailing Events Relating to Statute of Limitations and Tolling.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS F. REILLY ATTORNEY GENERAL

¹ The respondent's motion to substitute Michael A. Thompson, superintendent of M.C.I. - Shirley, for John Ashcroft, former United States Attorney General, is currently pending before this Court.

Daniel I. Smulow, BBO 641668

Assistant Attorney General

Criminal Bureau

One Ashburton Place

Boston, Massachusetts 02108

(617) 727-2200 ext. 2949

Dated: April 25, 2005

Certificate of Service

I hereby certify that a true copy of the above document was served on Angel Rivera, M.C.I. - Shirley, P.O. Box 1218, Shirley, MA 01464, by first class mail, postage prepaid, on April 25, 2005.

Motion to Inspect Statements of

Motion for Disclosure of Miranda Card and Disclosure of Names of Fresent for Miranda Warnings and Defendant's Statements-agreed.

Officers

Witnesses-agreed.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS ESSEX, SS. SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL DOCKET
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OFFENSE: Rape, Cha- OFFENSE: Rape, Cha- SURETY AND AMOUNT: PROSECUTOR: Ant
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	Motion for Rewards and promises-agreed.	Notion for Discovery of Previous Interviews with Alleged Victim-agreed.	10		Borenstein, J. presiding: B.Vega, Court Stenographer	District Court Papers Received,	ly 16, 1996.	ing;	1	J. presiding: A	1996 for motions:	ng:	1996 for motions.	ing:	tember 26, 19	.lr.J., presidi	Continued to December 9, 1996 for trial.	Bohn, Jr. J., presiding: P.Flaherty, Court Stenographer	Ö	and Affidavit-allowed as amended. (Bohn, Jr. J.)	oue Case	February 3, 1997 for	Welch, J. presiding: M.Hezekiah, Court Stenographer		Motion to Continue-Allowed. (Bohn, Jr. J.)	Continued to March 17, 1997,	Jr.J., presiding:	for trial assign	Cratsley, J., presiding: A. Green, Court Stenographer	tential	Continued to May 27, 1997 for trial.	Cratsley, J., presiding: A. Green, Court Stenographer	to Produce Records issued		Order to Produce Records issued to Pediatric Professional Associates, P.C.	Order to produce Records issued to Saint's Nemorial Medical Center,	Impounded Record from Children's Hospital Received,		From Saints Memorial Center Received	gent Summons filled and		
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1996	May 21					May 23	June 20		July 16		August 19		Sept 3		Sept 6		Sept 26		Sept 27		Nov 26			1661	Jan 15			March 17		March 25							Apr11 10	Apr11 14	Apr11 30	- 1	May 7	

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Motion

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Motion Motion Motion Motion

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Limine

filed and Allowed.

Exclude Nedical Records filed and Referred to Context of

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Motion

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Limine to

limit Number of

Fresh Complaint Witnesses filed and Allowed

fresh_complaint witnesses.

15

Limine

Re:

Opinion of Guilt

filed and Allowed.

to the extent that the Commonwealth will

Bohn, J., presiding:

E. Vega, Court Stenographer

52

50 49 48

See Commonwealth V.

6

Motion for Bill of Particulars-after hearing, defendant's Motion is Denied

<u>Dismiss=:Affidavit and Memorandum of Law.-After hearing Notion is Denied</u>

filed and Allowed

Sequestration of Witnesses During Trial

Disclosure filed and Denied.

Motion

Morion in Limine to Exclude "Expert" Testimony of Treating Physician filed

Motion for an In-Camera hearing on the Admission of Evidence

filed and Motion

prior Bad

in Support of Defendant's Motion to Exclude Evidence of

be elicited

for in-camera hearing is Allowed,

Commonwealth's Motion in Limine filed and referred to Context of Trial,

to Context of

in Limine to Exclude the term "Victim" filed and Allowed.

Commonwealth's Motion in Limine filed and Referred

45

44

Memorandum

that no such evidence will

Acts

filed

43 42

Motion Motion Motion Motion

in Limine: Alleged

40 300

Commonwealth's List of Potential Witnesses filed.

for Voir Dire on Fresh Complaint and Memorandum filed and Allowed.

in Limine: Request for Instruction on Fresh Complaint filed and Allowed.

for Voir Dire of Fresh Complaint Witnesses filed and Allowed.

Bad Acts filed and Withdrawn upon representation

	MASS ACHUSETTS ESSEX, SS, SUPERIOR COURT CRIMINAL DOCKET	COMMONWEALTH OF	
June 2	Мау 27 Мау 29	May 16	1997
36	3.5	33	
Impounded Records from Department of Social Services Received, Jury Trial Begins. Memo of Trial filed. Motion to Propound Questions to Prospective Jurors Individually filed. List of Potential Witnesses filed.	Continued to May 29, 1997. Welch, I., presiding: M. Hezekiah, Court Stemographer Continued to June 2, 1997 at Lawrence for Trial. Cratsley, J., presiding: M. Hezekiah, Court Stemographer	33 Motion to Continue Case filed after hearing and allowed. Continued to May 29, 1997 for Trial. Whitehead, J., presiding: M. Hezekiah, Court Stenographer 34 Motion for Funds for Functival / Whitehead T.	COMMONWEALTH VS. Angel Rivera No. CR- 0832 PAGE 2

	June 25 81	Apr11 7	Jan 11 79	1999	1	Aug 25 78		April 15		_ Mar 17 75	1998	Sept 3 74	OCI	un	1	July 14	70	June 16 69	June 11	O June 10 67		66		64		5	Pa	63			June 6 61		June 5 59		58	June 4	1997 '
	received.	of Assembly of Record and transcripts transmitted to the Appeal	Notice of Assignment of Counsel C2399270-6, Allison Beauparlant, Ran CPCS assigned		riew of sentence.	liate Division dated July 29, 1998 Re: withdrawal of	of transcripts from CPCS (4 volumes)	CERTIFICATE: Receipt of transcripts from the D.A's office (4 volumes)	grapher.			enscript received	ourt Stenographers	CATE of First Assistant Clerk re: Order of t	Notice sent to B. Vega and M. Parzial	Peter M. Onek, Esq., appears for the defendant	Request for transcript form received S. Jane Hagger	Transmitted to the Appellate Division and All Parties Notified	Appeal from	Request for Transcript received.	lding: M. Parziale, Court Stenogran	Motion for Stay o	Notice of Appeal filed.	Notification Relative to Sex Offender Registration under Chapter	in Open Court Sex Offender Registry (Defendant rafuses to	fied Appe	Correctional institution Cedar Junction, Credit	SENTENCE: Eight (8) years to Eight (8) years and One (1) day committed	VERDICT: Guilty	(Bohn, J.)	nding of Not Guilty at	th's Request for jury Ins	Instruct	s Motion 19 Denied. (Bohn. 3.)	Motion for Required Finding of Not Guilty at Close of Commonwealth's Case-after has	Motion #45-Denied. (Bohn, J.)	

97 ON

	COMMONWEALTH VS.	S. ANGEL RIVERA 9677CH U833
OCMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS	OFFENSE: Rape, of	a Child under the age of sixteen years, Chap. 265, sec. 23.
SUPERIOR COURT	SURETY AND AMOUNT:	- Fight stice
DOCKET		
	PHOSECUTOR: An	Antonia Nedder, A.D.A., Museum Place, 1 East India Sq. Mall, Salem 01970
	COUNSEL: Co	Committee for Public Counsel Services. I Salem Green. Salem 01070
	Peter N	lantic Avenue, Suite 700,
oo:	JUSTICE DISPOSING OF CASE	ASE: Bohn, J.
AU	Mar. 20 1	INDICTMENT FILED:
<u>.</u>	April 11 An	r, Assistant District Attorney, a
,	De	for the defendant,
	Dej	ordered to recogni
	Cor	May 9, 1996.
,	3	n, J. presiding:
·····	7 17	District Court Notified Re: Bail
		21, 1996.
	May 21 Pro	M. Hezekiah, Cou
·		ORDER Re: 51A and 51B reports, (Borenstein, I.) See 6 in: 96CB 837
	Mot	r List of Potential Witnesses and Their Prob
	and	nearing allowed. See 7 in 96CR 832
	Mot	Motion for Production of Department of Social Services Records-agreed. See
	John	acovery of Booking Chart and Photographs
r	Мот	Discovery of Statements of
	том	for Exculpatory Evidence-agreed. See 11 in 96CR 832
	Mot	for Discovery of Medical Evidence-agreed. See Li
	Mot	Disclosure of Miranda Card and Disclosure of
	1960	for Miranda Warnings and Defendant's Statements-agreed. S
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Motion for Rewards and promises-agreed. See 16 in 960R 87 Motion for Discovery of Previous Interviews with Alleged Motion for Discovery of Physical Scientific and Expert Ev 18 in 960R 832 Motion for Discovery of Physical Scientific and Expert Ev 18 in 960R 832 Continued to June 20, 1996. Bohn, Dresiding: B.Vega, Court Stenographer Continued to July 16, 1996. Mittehead.J. presiding: B.Vega, Court Stenographer Continued to August 19, 1996 for motions. Bohn, Jr. J. presiding: A.Green. Court Stenographer Continued to August 28, 1996 for motions. Bohn, Jr. J. presiding: K.Gordon, Court Stenographer Continued to September 26, 1996 for froit assignment. Bohn, Jr. J. presiding: R.Gordon, Court Stenographer Continued to September 26, 1996 for frial assignment. Bohn, Jr. J. presiding: P.Flaherty, Court Stenographer Continued to Discovery of Complainant's Relevant Counseling and Affidavit-Allowed as amended. Bohn, Jr. J. See 20 in Motion for Discovery of Complainant's Relevant Counseling and Affiding: M.Hezekiah, Court Stenographer Continued to Pebruary 3, 1997 for trial. Motion to Continue-Allowed. (Bohn, Jr. J.) See 22 in 960R 81 Continued to March 17, 1997. Continued to March 17, 1997 for trial assignment. Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Motion to March 17, 1997 for trial. Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Order to March 12, 1997 for trial Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Order to Produce Records issued to Department of Social Se Order to Produce Records issued to Calidran's Hopplal. See 25 in 960R 82 Catalsey, J., presiding: A.Green, Court Stenographer Order to Produce Records issued to Calidran's Hopplal.	By Victim-agreed. See Evidence-agreed. See Tr Tr Her ng and Treatment History n 96CR 832 . See 21 in 96CR 832
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MARKET STUDY

Onek, Esq., appears for the defendant go #71 d	July 14
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Telvel Co. #67 1- 0/Gr	June 10
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Notice of Appeal filed. See #65 in 96CR 872	
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egistry (Defendant refused to of	
and Assessments waived.	
complaintant, Sex Offender Courses as Ordered by the Probation Offi	
N: Five (5) years Probation, from and after 96CR 832 and 96CR 83%, No.	
o ATTER	
Denleg. (Bohn, J.) See #61 in 96CR 832,	
for Required Finding of Not Guilty at Close of All the Fyldence filed	June 6 4
wealth's Request for Jury Instructions filed see #60 1	
ction filed. See #59 in	June 5
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Required Finding of Not Guilty at Close of Commonwealth's Case of	
#46-Denied. (Bohn, J.)	June 4
Bohn, J., presiding: E. Vega, Court Stenoprapher	1
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No. CR· 835 PAGE three	transcripts, See	in CR832 from B. Vega, Court Sten		e 3, 4, 5, 6 of 1997) from M. Parziale.		(4 vols) See #76	eramscripts from ords (4 volumes) see #// in 96CR 832	-6, Allison Beauparlant, Esd. CPCS assigned		this transmitted to the Appeals Court. See																				一年 一年 一年 一日
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COMMONWEALTH
OF
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	COMMONWEALTH VS.	h vs. angel rivera	9677CR 0836
WEALTH F HUSETTS K, SS.	OFFENSE: Rape	of a Child under the	under the age of sixteen years, Chap. 265, sec. 23. PLACE: Lawrence
INAL KET	SURETY AND AMOUNT:	4T:	
	PROSECUTOR:	Antonia Nedder, A.D	A.D.A., Museum Place, 1 East India Sq. Mall, Salem 01970
<u> </u>	COUNSEL:	Committee for Public Peter M. Onek, Esq., CPGS	blic Counsel Services, 1 Salem Green, Salem 01970 CPCS, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 700, Boston, MA. 02210
. <u></u>			
1f	JUSTICE DISPOSING OF CASE:		
 !-	1996 Mar. 20 1		
	April 11	Antonia Wedder, Ass	stant District Attorney, appears for the Commonwealth.
<u> </u>		Defendant maines res	appointed and appears for the defendant, See 2 in 96CR 832
			warves teauting of the finiteliment and pleads not guilty.
			1996.
		Cowin, J. presiding:	ing: K.Gordon, Court Stenographer
	April 12	District	Court Notified Re: Bail. See 3 in 96CR 832
	мау у	Continued to May 21, 1996.	1996,
I	May 21	Dretrial Conference	Lein, J. presiding: M. Hezeklan, Court Stenographer
			51B reports, (Borenstein, J.) See 6 in 960R 812
L		Motion for List of	Inesses and Their Probati
1		and after hearing a	allowed, See 7 in 96CR 832
1			on of Department of Social Services Records-agreed. See
		8 In 96CR 832	
		Motion for Discover	greed, See 9 in
		Motion for Discover	for Discovery of Statements of Defendant-agreed. See 10 in 96Cr 832
!		for	Excurpatory Evidence-agreed, See 11 in 960k 632 Discovery of Medical Evidence-agreed, See 12 in 960R 832
1		1	Card and Disclosure of Names o
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7		96CR 832	
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COMMONWEALTH VS. Angel Rivera 96 No. CR. 836 PAGE two	from Childrens Hospital Received. See 28 1 received from Pediatric Professional Assoc	96ск 832	Impounded Records From Saints Memorial Medical Center Received See #30 in 9677CR-832	gent Summons fi	=	96CR 832	Continued to May 29, 1997 for Trial,	- 11		Continued to May 29, 1997.	l Li	2, 1997 at L	presiding: M. Hezeklah,	ded from Department of Social Serv	FOR IN 90ck 832, Jury Trial Begins	of Tri	nd Ouestions to Prospective luces Tellistics]	List of Potential Witnesses filed, See #38 in 96CR 832	2	Notion in Limine: Request for Instruction on Bresh Complaint filled and Allowed.	D4 40 00	4	Dire of Fresh Complaint Witnesses 64124 and 411			idence will be elicited. See	in Support of Defendant's Motion	led, See #44 in 96CR 832.	on for an	aring is Allowed. See #45 in 96CR 832.	on in Limine to Exclu	See #46 in 96CR 832.	Componyealth's Motion in Limine filed and Referred to Context of Triest or.
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	Case 1:05-cv-10629-		June 6	June	1 1	June 4				6/20			Pag					June 2	1
il the state of th		Defendant Discharged.	or Re (Boh	Jury Instructions filed. See #60 in 96CR 8:	Motion is Denied. (Bohn, J.) See #58 /	(Bohn, J.)	See #5/ in 96CR 83Z. Bohn, J., presiding: E. Vega, Court Stenographer	extent that the Commonwealth will be limited to Two fresh complaint	Motion in Limine Re: Opinion of Guilt tiled and Allowed. See #56 in 96CR 832. Motion in Limine to Limit Number of Fresh Complaint Witnesses filed and Allowed to	5 in 96CR 832.	Motion in Limine to Exclude Medical Records filed and Referred to Context of Trial	in Limine - Disclosure filed and Denied. See	NOCION for Sequestration of Witnesses During Trial filed and Allowed. See #52 in 96CR 832.	in 96CR 832.	ss, Affidavit and Memorand	Motion for Bill of Particulars-after hearing, defendant's Motion is Denied. See Commonwealth V. Sanchez. See #50 in 96CR 832.	Motion in Limine to Exclude the term "Victim" filed and Allowed See #40 in	Commonwealth's Motion in Limine filed and Referred to Context of Trial. See #48	

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	COMMONWEALTH VS.	ALTH VS.	ANGEL RIVERA	
WEALTH	OFFENSE: Ind	Indecent Assault	and Battery on a Child, Chap. 265, sec. 13B.	1.1
SS.			PLACE: Lawrence	.
NAL (ET	SURETY AND AMOUNT:	IOUNT:		
	PROSECUTOR:	Antonia	Nedder, A.D.A., Museum Place, 1 East India Sq. Mall, Salem 01970	1 1
	COUNSEL:	~	ee for Public Counsel Services, 1 Salem Green, Salem 01970	[]
		Peter M. On	Onek, Esq., CPCS, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Suite 700, Bogton, MA. 02210	111
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-	JUSTICE DISPOSING OF CASE:	ING OF CASE:	Воћи, Ј.	•
	1996 Mar. 20	1 INDICTMENT		14
	April 11	Antonia	r, Assistant District Attorney, appears for the Commonwealth,	
		Defendent was	atters, Esq., appointed and appears for the defendant, See 2 in 96CR 832	_
		Defendant	int ordered to recognize Same Bail as District Court.	_
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	May 21	Pretria	11ed. See 5 in 96CR	i
		ORDER Re:	e: 51A and 51B reports. (Borenstein, J.) See 6 in 96CR 832	ŀ
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		and after	hearing allowed, See 7 in 96CR 832	ı I
		Motion tor	for Production of Department of Social Services Records-agreed, See	ļ
		8 in 96CR	8 in 96CR 832 Motion for Discovery of Booking Sheet and Photographs-agreed See 4 in 96CR R12	1
A		Motion	96Cr 832	1
		Motion	Exculpatory Evidence-agreed. See 11 in 96CR 832	ı
<u> </u>			for Discovery of Medical Evidence-agreed. See 12 in 96CR 832	ļ
1		Motion for	Disclosure of Miranda Card and Disclosure of Names of Offic	ļ
		Present	Present for Miranda Warnings and Defendant's Statements-agreed. See 13 in	1
		1 20CK 032	7	1

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Commonwealth of Massachusetts ESSEX SUPERIOR COURT Case Summary Criminal Docket

Details for Docket: ESCR1996-00832

Case Information

Docket Number:

ESCR1996-00832

Caption:

Commonwealth v Rivera,

Angel

Entry Date:

03/20/1996

Case Status:

CtRm 1 (Salem)

Status Date:

09/16/2004

Session:
Deadline Status:

Disposed (appeal denied)

Lead Case: Trial Deadline: NΑ

Jury Trial:

NO

Parties Involved

2 Parties Involved in Docket: ESCR1996-00832

Party

Involved:

Role:

Defendant

Last Name:

Rivera

First Name:

Address:

Angei

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Zip Ext:

Telephone:

Party

Involved:

Role:

Plaintiff

Last Name:

Commonwealth

First Name:

Address:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip Code:

Zip Ext:

Telephone:

Attorneys Involved

No Attorneys found for Docket: ESCR1996-00832.

There are currently no attorneys associated with this case.

Calendar Events

No Calendar Events found for Docket: ESCR1996-00832.

There are currently no calendar events associated with this case.

Full Docket Entries

45 Docket Entries for Docket: ESCR1996-00832

Entry Date:	Paper No:	Docket Entry:
03/20/1996	1	Indictment returned
06/06/1997		RE Offense 1:Guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 2:Guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 3:Guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 4:Guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 5:Not guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 6:Guilty verdict
06/06/1997		RE Offense 7:Guilty verdict
09/16/2000	81	Status at conversion
09/18/2001	82	Rescript received from Appeals Court; judgment affirmed Dated August
09/18/2001	82	20, 2001 Nov. 20, 2001
01/30/2002	83	AMENDED SENTENCE: 96-832 - Eight Years to Eight Years (8) and One (1)
01/30/2002	83	Day Committed to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Cedar
01/30/2002	83	Junction. Credit of 8 Days
01/30/2002	84	AMENDED SENTENCE: 96-834 - Eight Years to Eight Years (8) and One (1)
01/30/2002	84	Day Committed to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Cedar
01/30/2002	84	Junction. Concurrent with 96-832 Credit of 8 Days
01/30/2002	85	AMENDED SENTENCE: 96-837 - Eight Years to Eight Years (8) and One (1)
01/30/2002	85	Day Committed to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Cedar
01/30/2002	85	Junction. Concurrent with 96-832 Credit of 8 Days
01/30/2002	86	AMENDED SENTENCE: 96-838 - Eight Years to Eight Years (8) and One (1)
01/30/2002	86	Day Committed to the Massachusetts Correctional Institution Cedar
01/30/2002	86	Junction. Concurrent with 96-832 Credit of 8 Days
12/18/2002	87	Motion for Defendant to Receive Jail Credit Filed. Copy of Amended
12/18/2002	87	Mit Sent to Defendant with Jail Credit on it
02/24/2003	88	Motion by Deft: For Release From Unlawful Restraint Pursuant To Rule

,	02/24/2003	88	30(A), Memorandum of Law and Points Of Authority In Support Of and
	02/24/2003	88	Affidavit Filed. copy of motion and docket sheets to Judge Bohn.
	02/24/2003	89	Motion by Deft: For Appointment of Counsel - Filed. copy of motion
	02/24/2003	89	and docket sheets to Judge Bohn.
	03/11/2003	90	Request by Records Department at MCI Shirley for copy of amended
	03/11/2003	90	mittimus, sent print-out which they OK'd.
	03/27/2003		Motion (P#88): Denied without a hearing as provided for by Mass R.
	03/27/2003		Crim. P. 30(c)(3). See endorsement (Bohn, Justice). Copies mailed
	03/27/2003		4/1/03
	03/27/2003		Motion (P#89): Denied absent a more specific showing (Bohn, Justice).
	03/27/2003		Copies mailed 4/1/03
	04/09/2003	91	NOTICE of APPEAL FILED by Angel Rivera
	08/18/2003	92	Motion by Deft: to transmit appeal papers.
	09/23/2003	93	Notice of assembly of record; mailed to Appeals Court per Rule 9(d)
	09/23/2003		Notice of completion of assembly of record sent to clerk of Appeals
	09/23/2003		Court and attorneys for the Commonwealth and defendant.
	09/25/2003	94	Notice of Entry of appeal received from the Appeals Court
	09/16/2004	95	Rescript received from Appeals Court; Order Denying Relief judgment
	09/16/2004	95	AFFIRMED

Charges

7 Charges for Docket: ESCR1996-00832

No.	Charge Description:	Indictment:	Status:
1	Rape & abuse of child under 16	ESCR1996-00834	Guilty verdict
2	Rape & abuse of child under 16	ESCR1996-00832	Guilty verdict
3	Rape & abuse of child under 16	ESCR1995-00836	Not guilty verdict
4	Rape & abuse of child under 16	ESCR1996-00835	Guilty verdict
5	Rape & abuse of child under 16	ESCR1996-00833	Guilty verdict
6	Indecent assault & battery on child under 14	ESCR1996-00837	Guilty verdict
7	Indecent assault & battery on child under 14	ESCR1996-00838	Guilty verdict

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Page 1

*823 753 N.E.2d 823

52 Mass.App.Ct. 321

Appeals Court of Massachusetts, Essex.

COMMONWEALTH
v.
Angel RIVERA.

No. 99-P-591. Argued Dec. 11, 2000.

Decided Aug. 20, 2001.

Defendant was convicted in the Superior Court Department, Essex County, Robert H. Bohn, J., of four counts of rape of a child and two counts of indecent assault and battery upon a child. Defendant appealed. The Appeals Court, Duffly, J., held that: (1) trial judge acted within his discretion in excluding certain evidence during cross-examination of victim; (2) trial judge properly limited defendant's cross-examination of victim by excluding questions about allegations made by victim to her teacher; (3) prosecutor did not improperly vouch for victim's credibility during closing argument; (4) prosecutor did not misstate victim's testimony during closing argument; (5) improper closing comment made by prosecutor was not prejudicial error; and (6) prosecutor's improper attack on character of defense witness did not create substantial likelihood of miscarriage of justice.

Affirmed.

Brown, J., concurred with opinion.

West Headnotes

[1] Witnesses \$\infty\$270(2)

410 ----

410III Examination

410III(B) Cross-Examination

410k270 Cross-Examination as to Irrelevant, Collateral, or Immaterial Matters

410k270(2) Particular Matters as Subjects of Cross-Examination.

Trial judge acted within his discretion, during defendant's cross-examination of victim in prosecution for rape of a child, in excluding statement in victim's medical record which was dated before defendant's alleged sexual abuse began, purporting to establish that victim had previously disclosed a sexual assault to her doctor and that her mother knew about it, though defendant argued that such evidence refuted victim's claim that she had been too ashamed to report defendant's abuse earlier.

[2] Criminal Law \$\sim 338(1)\$

110 ----

110XVII Evidence 110XVII(D) Facts in Issue and Relevance 110k338 Relevancy in General 110k338(1) In General.

Whether evidence is legally relevant is a question which is generally left to the discretion of the trial judge.

[3] Criminal Law 661

110 ---110XX Trial
110XX(C) Reception of Evidence
110k661 Necessity and Scope of Proof.

It is within the judge's discretion to exclude evidence that is too remote in time or too speculative.

[4] Witnesses @= 372(2)

410 ----

Bias

410IV Credibility and Impeachment 410IV(C) Interest and Bias of Witness 410k372 Cross-Examination to Show Interest or

410k372(2) Inquiry as to Particular Acts or Facts Tending to Show Interest or Bias.

[See headnote text below]

[4] Witnesses \$\infty\$ 374(2)

410 ----

410IV Credibility and Impeachment
410IV(C) Interest and Bias of Witness
410k374 Competency of Impeaching Evidence
410k374(2) Declarations, Statements, or
Admissions of Witness.

Trial judge properly limited defendant's cross-examination of victim, in prosecution for rape of a child, by excluding questions about victim's alleged report to her teacher that her mother had been neglecting her and that she wanted to be removed from her mother's house, though defendant argued this

Page 2

evidence showed victim had motive to lie about defendant's abuse in order to get out of her mother's house which defendant shared; there was insufficient showing of nexus between evidence and defense theory of fabrication, and significant amount of time had passed since victim's report to teacher.

[5] Criminal Law @== 1171.1(2.1)

110 ----

110XXIV Review

110XXIV(Q) Harmless and Reversible Error

110k1171 Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k1171.1 In General

110k1171.1(2) Statements as to Facts,

Comments, and Arguments

110k1171.1(2.1) In General.

When a defendant objects to the prosecutor's statements made during a closing argument, the standard for determining whether a conviction must be reversed because of inappropriate statements is whether the improper statements made by the prosecutor constituted prejudicial error.

[6] Criminal Law \$\infty 720(5)

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) Arguments and Conduct of Counsel 110k712 Statements as to Facts, Comments, and Arguments

110k720 Comments on Evidence or Witnesses 110k720(5) Credibility and Character of Witnesses.

Prosecutor did not improperly vouch for victim's credibility when he commented, during closing argument in trial for rape of a child, that victim did not "have to subject herself to the humiliation of talking to countless strangers about horribly embarrassing personal experiences in her young life"; prosecutor was entitled to argue from the evidence why the victim should be believed, given that victim's credibility was at issue, and prosecutor later put his argument in context.

[7] Criminal Law 5726

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) Arguments and Conduct of Counsel 110k726 Responsive Statements and Remarks.

During closing argument in defendant's trial for rape

of a child, prosecutor did not misstate victim's testimony about her mother's actions when he commented about what victim's testimony likely meant, in response to defendant's argument that victim had lied when "she said[] her mother raped her" or when he summarized victim's testimony on this subject.

[8] Criminal Law \$\infty 719(1)

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) Arguments and Conduct of Counsel 110k712 Statements as to Facts, Comments, and Arguments

110k719 Matters Not Sustained by Evidence 110k719(1) In General.

[See headnote text below]

[8] Criminal Law \$\infty\$730(7)

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k730 Action of Court

110k730(7) Matters Not Sustained by Evidence.

Prosecutor's comment during closing argument, in trial for rape of a child, that victim's mother could have gotten ride to victim's counseling sessions from one of the "fifteen or so people sitting in the back of the courtroom" was improper, where there was nothing in the evidence to suggest that any of the people sitting in the courtroom were among those victim's mother had asked for a ride, but comment was not prejudicial error; judge instructed jury that closing argument was not evidence and that jurors were responsible for assessing credibility of evidence, and prosecutor's comment went only to collateral issue of possible bias of victim's mother.

[9] Criminal Law 5726

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) Arguments and Conduct of Counsel 110k726 Responsive Statements and Remarks.

Prosecutor's comments, during closing argument in trial for rape of a child, that victim's mother was in "denial" about defendant's actions and that victim's mother "didn't want to believe" what was going on constituted appropriate response to defense counsel's closing argument that victim's mother was credible witness based on her tearful denials that she had ever

Page 3

seen defendant touch her daughter in sexual way.

[10] Criminal Law \$\sim 720(5)\$

110 ----

110XX Trial

110XX(E) *823 Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k712 Statements as to Facts, Comments, and Arguments

110k720 Comments on Evidence or Witnesses 110k720(5) Credibility and Character of Witnesses.

[See headnote text below]

[10] Criminal Law \$\infty\$ 1037.1(2)

110 ----

110XXIV Review

110XXIV(E) Presentation and Reservation in Lower Court of Grounds of Review

110XXIV(E)1 In General

110k1037 Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k1037.1 In General

110k1037.1(2) Particular Statements, Arguments, and Comments.

Prosecutor improperly attacked character of defense witness, during closing argument in trial for rape of a child, when he called the witness "nothing more than a seventeen-year-old punk" and a "stooge," but such comment did not create a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice, in light of prosecutor's argument as a whole, judge's instructions to jury, and evidence produced at trial.

[11] Criminal Law \$\infty\$ 1037.1(1)

110 ----

110XXIV Review

110XXIV(E) Presentation and Reservation in Lower Court of Grounds of Review

110XXIV(E)1 In General

110k1037 Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k1037.1 In General

110k1037.1(1) Arguments and Conduct in General.

Defendant's failure to object at trial to certain comments made by prosecutor during closing argument limited the inquiry of the Appeals Court to whether the comments created a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice.

[12] Criminal Law \$\infty\$1037.1(1)

110 ----

110XXIV Review

110XXIV(E) Presentation and Reservation in Lower Court of Grounds of Review

110XXIV(E)1 In General

110k1037 Arguments and Conduct of Counsel

110k1037.1 In General

110k1037.1(1) Arguments and Conduct in General.

In analyzing whether prosecutor's closing remarks created a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice, the Appeals Court must view the prosecutor's remarks considering the argument as a whole, the judge's instructions to the jury, and the evidence produced at trial.

*824 Allison Young Beauparlant, Haverhill, for the defendant.

James A. Janda, Assistant District Attorney, for the Commonwealth.

Present BROWN, GILLERMAN & DUFFLY, JJ.

*825 DUFFLY, J.

Convicted by a Superior Court jury of four counts of rape of a child and two counts of indecent assault and battery upon a child, the defendant appeals, claiming evidence should have been admitted that the complaining witness had made a [52 Mass.App.Ct. 322] prior allegation of sexual assault, that his cross-examination of her was impermissibly restricted, and that the Commonwealth's closing argument was improper in several respects. We affirm the judgments.

According to the testimony of the complaining witness, Jane, (FN1) in January of 1990, the defendant--who had been living with Jane, her mother, and two sisters since Jane was very young, and to whom she referred throughout the trial as her "stepfather"--began coming into her bedroom late at night, after arriving home from work. Born on October 22, 1981, Jane was nine years old when the defendant began to kiss and lick or suck her "titties." weeks later, the defendant began to put his hands in her pants and his finger in her vagina; he also licked and put his tongue into her vagina. Jane testified that the sexual encounters, which "shocked and scared" her, took place approximately twice each week, continuing until just before her fourteenth birthday. During the encounters, Jane said she would sometimes move or

turn away, but that the defendant persisted. A few times, Jane called out "Mommy." Sometimes the sexual encounters occurred while her little sister slept in the same bed as Jane, and Jane would try to kick or nudge her awake. If her sister woke up, and on one occasion when her mother came into the bedroom, the defendant would pretend he was just checking on them.

The final incident occurred in October of 1995, when, according to Jane's testimony, the defendant "put his penis in me--He pulled my pants down, and he tried to put his penis in me, and I moved." Jane said the defendant's penis was "touching my vagina," that he pushed down once or twice, and that "[i]t hurt a little bit." Just after her fourteenth birthday, Jane and the defendant had a conversation during which he asked her if she "liked what he did to [her] at nighttime." Jane testified, "I told him, 'No' and to stop. And he said, 'Okay.' And he got mad and he left." After this conversation, the defendant did not sexually touch Jane again.

Jane told no one of these incidents until around the third week of January, 1996, when she confided in her best friend, [52 Mass.App.Ct. 323] who then relayed to an adult what Jane had told her. The defendant was arrested the next day.

There was no direct evidence corroborating Jane's testimony. The theory of defense was that Jane fabricated the story of sexual abuse because she resented the restrictions placed upon her by her mother and the defendant, and wished to live with her father where she was allowed to come in late, have friends over, and, most significantly, have a boyfriend. Defense counsel, expanding on this theory, argued in closing that when a person, who may have been related to the defendant, saw Jane being hugged by a boy and velled to her that, "He's not supposed to be hugging you," Jane decided to leave her mother's house and to fabricate the tale of sexual abuse in order to accomplish this goal. She then told her best friend about the sexual abuse in order to test out her story, and so that her friend would tell others.

[1][2][3] Exclusion of evidence. During cross-examination of Jane, the defendant *826 sought to introduce a statement in Jane's medical record dated October 1, 1988, that purported to establish that Jane had previously disclosed a sexual assault to her doctor, and that her mother knew about it. (FN2) The defendant argues that the evidence was relevant to refuting Jane's claim that she had not disclosed the defendant's abuse earlier because she felt ashamed to do so. The defendant "fails to support his ... argument[

] [that it was error to exclude the hearsay statement] with any case or statutory law." Commonwealth v. Hrycenko, 417 Mass. 309, 319, 630 N.E.2d 258 (1994). See Mass.R.A.P. 16(a)(4), as amended, 367 Mass. 921 (1975). In any case, "[w]hether evidence is legally relevant is a question which is generally left to the discretion of the trial judge." Commonwealth v. Chasson, 383 Mass. 183, 187, 423 N.E.2d 306 (1981). It is within the judge's discretion to exclude evidence that is too remote in time or too speculative, Commonwealth v. Freeman, 430 Mass. 111, 116, 712 N.E.2d 1135 (1999), and, here, the trial judge did not abuse his discretion.

[4] [52 Mass.App.Ct. 324] Restriction on crossexamination. The defendant next claims it was error to exclude questions on cross-examination of Jane about an allegation she made to a teacher that her mother had been neglecting her and that she wanted to be removed from the house. Jane allegedly made this accusation when she was eight years old, i.e., "at the time that [the abuse] allegedly was beginning." According to defense counsel, "when no one believed her, she was returned to the home. And she admitted that she lied, and she was returned to the home." The defendant argues that the evidence went to the heart of Jane's motive to lie, i.e., her previous fabrication not having been enough to get her out of the defendant's house, she now had to come up with a stronger scenario, one not directed at her mother, to do the job. The defendant claims that the exclusion impermissibly curtailed his cross-examination of Jane.

We think that there was not a sufficient showing of a nexus between the excluded evidence and the defense's theory of fabrication, and that "this lack of linking evidence, together with what was in the circumstances a significant passage of time, provided sufficient grounds for the judge in his discretion to exclude [the questions] lacking probative value." as Commonwealth v. Chasson, 383 Mass. at 187, 423 N.E.2d 306. Cf. Commonwealth v.. Herrick, 39 Mass.App.Ct. 291, 295, 655 N.E.2d 637 (1995) (absent evidence or basis for inquiry, it was proper to limit cross-examination of rape victim and her friend regarding a statement allegedly made by the victim to her friend that she feared a physical examination to establish her virginity; judge was warranted in concluding that such cross-examination "would only invite the jury 'to indulge in conjecture and supposition' "). There was no error.

Improper closing argument. The defendant claims that various statements made by the prosecutor in closing argument constituted improper vouching for the

victim's credibility, misstated evidence, suggested facts not in evidence, and attacked the character of a witness. The defendant preserved some of these claims by objecting at trial.

- [5] "When a defendant objects to the prosecutor's statements made during a closing argument, the standard for determining *827 whether a conviction must be reversed because of inappropriate statements is whether the improper statements made by the [52 Mass.App.Ct. 325] prosecutor 'constituted prejudicial error.' " Commonwealth v. Rosario, 430 Mass. 505, 515, 721 N.E.2d 903 (1999), quoting from Commonwealth v. Daggett, 416 Mass. 347, 352 n. 5, 622 N.E.2d 272 (1993).
- [6] a. Vouching for witness's credibility. The defendant objected at trial to the prosecutor's comment regarding Jane's testimony, that "[s]he didn't have to subject herself to the humiliation of talking to countless strangers about horribly embarrassing personal experiences in her young life."

The statement made by the prosecutor is similar to one discussed in Commonwealth v. Krepon, 32 Mass.App.Ct. 945, 590 N.E.2d 1165 (1992), that we concluded did not constitute improper vouching. There, the prosecutor's closing argument included this comment on the victim's testimony: "What reason would [the victim] have to come into this courtroom, stand on that witness stand, and testify before fourteen people about all of this if this were pure fantasy ... ? What is her motive?" Commonwealth v. Krepon, 32 Mass.App.Ct. at 946, 590 N.E.2d 1165. Here, because the complainant's credibility was at issue, the prosecutor was entitled to "argue from the evidence why a witness should be believed." Commonwealth v. Freeman, 430 Mass. at 119, 712 N.E.2d 1135 (citations omitted). Further the prosecutor put the argument in context by stating, "[n]ow, it is up to you to decide, in a few moments, after the judge gives you some instructions, you are going to have a chance, for the first time, ... to decide this case on the facts and evidence that you heard." Cf. Commonwealth v. Krepon, 32 Mass.App.Ct. at 946-947, 590 N.E.2d 1165.

[7] b. Misstatement of evidence. During closing argument, counsel for the defendant, pointing to alleged inconsistencies in Jane's testimony, said that Jane had lied when "she said[] her mother raped her. She put her fingers inside of her vagina," and that Jane had not previously told anyone that her mother had put her fingers inside of her, suggesting that Jane was not credible. The prosecutor responded in his closing to

this characterization of the evidence (FN3) by arguing: "Was *828 she suggesting, in some way, that her mother was raping her? Ladies and [52 Mass.App.Ct. 326] gentleman, common sense; what is your memory of that? What she was saying was, 'My mother saw something. It was weird. I don't know why she was doing what she was doing, but she put her hands in my pants.' "The prosecution's appeal to the jury to use "common sense," and his characterization of what Jane's testimony likely meant, was a rhetorical device, and in the context of the entire argument, was not improper. See Commonwealth v. Snyder, 10 Mass.App.Ct. 896, 409 N.E.2d 814 (1980).

The prosecutor's earlier summary of Jane's testimony in this regard was also not a misstatement. prosecutor said that Jane had testified, "I don't know what my mother saw. All I know is, after he left the room, my mother came over and put her hands in my pants," and that she had denied, in cross-examination, saying her mother had put her fingers in her vagina, that she had put them in her pants. The jury could not have been misled into thinking that the prosecutor was giving them a verbatim quote of Jane's statements. This was not an inaccurate summary of the testimony, and it was permissible for the prosecutor to focus on those aspects of Jane's somewhat equivocal statements regarding her mother's actions. Further, the judge instructed the jury to consider only the evidence introduced at trial, and the prosecutor's comments did not impinge on their prerogative to weigh the evidence. See, e.g., Commonwealth v. Kozec, 399 Mass. 514, 517, 505 N.E.2d 519 (1987) ("A certain [52 Mass.App.Ct. 327] measure of jury sophistication in sorting out excessive claims on both sides fairly may Commonwealth v. Azar, 32 be assumed"); Mass.App.Ct. 290, 308, 588 N.E.2d 1352 (1992) (evidence misquoted, but error harmless because we assume some measure of jury sophistication in ability to sort out hyperbole and speculation).

[8] c. Facts not in evidence. The defendant claims that the prosecutor made two arguments that were not based on evidence at trial. The defendant preserved below his claim that the prosecutor impermissibly argued at closing that Jane's mother could have gotten a ride to Boston for her daughter's counseling sessions from one of the "fifteen or so people sitting in the back of the courtroom." (FN4)

We agree that the prosecutor's statement strayed beyond the logical conclusions that are permissible to draw from testimony submitted at trial. Commonwealth v. Freeman, 430 Mass. at 118-119, 712 N.E.2d 1135. There was nothing in the evidence

to suggest that any of the people sitting in the courtroom were among those Jane's mother had asked for a ride. We note, however, that the judge instructed the jury both at the outset of trial and in his charge that a closing argument is not evidence and that the jurors were responsible for assessing the credibility of the evidence. Commonwealth v. Thomas, 401 Mass. 109, 117, 514 N.E.2d 1309 (1987). Further, the comment did not go to the heart of the matter, but only to a collateral issue, i.e., that of possible bias of Jane's mother, Commonwealth v. *829 Kozec, 399 Mass. at 518, 505 N.E.2d 519, To view preceding link please click here and did not prejudice the defendant.

[9] The defendant also claims prejudice from the prosecutor's statements that Jane's mother was in "denial" and that "she must have seen something. She could have realized what was going on, but she didn't want to believe it." The defendant did not raise this issue below.

[52 Mass.App.Ct. 328] The prosecutor's comment was an appropriate response to the closing argument of defense counsel, in which defense counsel argued that Jane's mother was a credible witness in part based on her tearful denials in response to his questions as to whether she had ever seen the defendant touch her daughter in a sexual way. The prosecutor's argument was grounded in the evidence, and permissibly focused the jury on the issue of her credibility. Commonwealth v. Freeman, 430 Mass. at 119, 712 N.E.2d 1135.

[10] d. Attack on character of witness. Also for the first time on appeal, the defendant raises the additional claim that the prosecutor's closing argument went too far by calling one of the defense witnesses, "nothing more than a seventeen-year-old punk; ... a stooge who was brought in here; that he wouldn't know the truth about what was going on in that household, if it hit him The prosecutor's comment was in across the face." reference to the testimony of Jose Binet, who, testifying for the defense, said that after hearing about Jane's allegations from his mother, had approached Jane in the school cafeteria, asked her whether the defendant "ha[d] sex with her" and that she had replied, "No." The defendant argues that the prosecutor's statements consisted of an attack on the character of the witness and that there was no evidence supporting the statements that Jose was a "punk" or a "stooge."

[11][12] The prosecutor's closing argument went too far. We have cautioned counsel for the Commonwealth to avoid prejudicial name-calling. Commonwealth v. Mosley, 6 Mass.App.Ct. 451, 452-453, 377 N.E.2d 435 (1978) (referring to the

defendant as a "wild animal"). See Commonwealth v. Clary, 388 Mass. 583, 592, 447 N.E.2d 1217 (1983). Because the defendant failed to object to these statements at trial, our inquiry is limited "to whether they created a substantial likelihood of a miscarriage of justice." Commonwealth v. Carmona, 428 Mass. 268, 273, 700 N.E.2d 823 (1998). "In making this analysis we must view the prosecutor's remarks 'considering the argument as a whole, the judge's instructions to the jury, and the evidence produced at trial.' " Ibid. On this basis, we conclude there was no substantial risk of a miscarriage of justice.

Judgments affirmed.

[52 Mass.App.Ct. 329] BROWN, J. (concurring).

Although I still adhere to the views set out in my dissent in Commonwealth v. Dowdy, 36 Mass.App.Ct. 495, 501-503, 633 N.E.2d 419 (1994) (Brown, J., dissenting), I concur, albeit reluctantly, only because I am "substantially confident that, if the [unbridled comments] had not been made, the jury verdict would have been the same." Commonwealth v. Cyr, 433 Mass. 617, 626, 744 N.E.2d 1082 (2001) (citation omitted).

The instant case pushes the outer limits of what this court found permissible in Commonwealth v. Krepon, 32 Mass.App.Ct. 945, 946, 590 N.E.2d 1165 (1992). I repeat my usual refrain: It is long past time for attorneys, both defense and prosecution, to have to be reminded not to stray recklessly outside the bounds of proper argument. In this regard, see Commonwealth v. Redmond, 370 Mass. 591, 597, 351 N.E.2d 501 (1976), where *830. twenty-five years ago the court reversed and admonished a "prosecutor [who] repeatedly and deliberately sailed unnecessarily close to the wind."

(FN1.) The name is fictitious.

(FN2.) The medical record is handwritten and some words are not legible. The relevant paragraph is set out as follows: "[illegible] No serious illnesses/accidents 0 allergies 0 meds, [illegible] dentist. Discussed SA--['no' or 'wo' or 'uo']--little boy in school last yr touched her-mom raised a fuss. PE Totally [illegible]."

(FN3.) During direct testimony, Jane stated that, at a point during the period the defendant was coming into her room at night and sexually touching her, her mother walked into the bedroom while the defendant was licking her vagina. The defendant pretended that he "was just checking on [her]," and left the

room, while her mother "pretend[ed] that she didn't see." Jane testified that her mother then came over and "laid down in the bed with me, and she put her hand inside my pants. I don't know what she was doing. She, like, put her fingers in my vagina. She just, like, touched it. I don't know what she did. Then, she just left." When asked on cross-examination whether her mother had put her fingers in Jane's vagina, she said "Not inside of me. I didn't mean inside of me. I mean, she touched me." The prosecutor then asked, "Okay. But, you said, yesterday, that she put her fingers in your vagina?" Jane answered, "Yes."

Case 1:05-cv-10629-JLT

We adhere to the notion that counsel for both parties may not engage in prejudicial characterizations of evidence, or argue conclusions not logically drawn from the evidence at trial. See Smith, Criminal Practice and Procedure §§ 1860-1868 (2d ed.1983), and cases cited. See also Commonwealth v. Dowdy, 36 Mass.App.Ct. 495, 502, 633 N.E.2d 419 (1994) (Brown, J., dissenting) ("a plethora of opinions have

rained down upon both defense counsel and prosecutor, warning, threatening, and admonishing" about propriety of closing arguments). Defense counsel's characterization of Jane's testimony as a claim that her mother had raped her was unwarranted, and had it come from the prosecution would rightly have given rise to a claim of prejudice.

(FN4.) When asked by the prosecutor whether she recalled having failed to show up on several occasions for counseling sessions with Jane, after Jane had made the allegation of sexual abuse and had gone to live with her father, Jane's mother responded that she did not have a car and, having just learned to drive, could not drive around Boston. The prosecutor then asked, "And with all the family and with all the friends you have up here, you couldn't find anybody to give you a ride down to Boston, so you could sit in with your daughter on a counseling meeting. Is that what you're telling us?" She replied, "I didn't find nobody. Everybody works, sir."

762 N.E.2d 323, 435 Mass. 1108, Com. v. Rivera, (Mass. 2002)

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*323 762 N.E.2d 323

435 Mass. 1108

(The Court's decision is referenced in a "Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts Further Appellate Review" table in the North Eastern Reporter.)

Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.

Commonwealth

v.

Angel Rivera

January 03, 2002

Appeal From: 52 Mass.App.Ct. 321, 753 N.E.2d

823.

DENIED.

810 N.E.2d 1288, 61 Mass.App.Ct. 1113, Com. v. Rivera, (Mass.App.Ct. 2004)

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*1288 810 N.E.2d 1288

61 Mass.App.Ct. 1113

NOTICE: THIS IS AN UNPUBLISHED OPINION.

Appeals Court of Massachusetts.

COMMONWEALTH, v. Angel RIVERA.

No. 03-P-1242. June 24, 2004.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER PURSUANT TO RULE 1:28

Serving sentences for multiple sex offenses, affirmed on appeal, *Commonwealth v. Rivera*, 52 Mass.App.Ct. 321 (2001), the defendant petitioned, more than six years after he was convicted, for release from unlawful restraint pursuant to Mass.R.Crim.P. 30(a). The trial judge denied the motion, and wrote a margin endorsement, reproduced in the Commonwealth's brief at page four.

In his rule 30(a) motion, the defendant claimed that (a) the prosecutor suborned perjury by the victim; (b) the defendant's trial attorney rendered constitutionally defective representation because she refused to permit him to testify; and (c) the judge "bound and gagged" him by permitting the admission of fresh complaint testimony, while precluding him from impeaching the victim. No affidavit of defendant's trial counsel was submitted with the motion.

The judge discredited the defendant's claims: "[t]here is no issue of credible value raised in the motion ... that has not been argued and disposed of in prior trial and appellate decisions." The judge was partially accurate. See note 8 in the Commonwealth's brief at page eight. Notwithstanding, the defendant's request for relief was properly denied. The claims pertaining to prosecutorial misconduct, judicial bias, and fresh complaint evidence could have, and should have, been raised on direct appeal, and, like the other claims, the substandard counsel claim lacks credible evidentiary support. We rely on the arguments and authorities on pages nine through fifteen of the Commonwealth's brief. The order denying relief is affirmed.

So ordered.

815 N.E.2d 1085, 442 Mass. 1108, Com. v. Rivera, (Mass. 2004)

Page 1

*1085 815 N.E.2d 1085

442 Mass. 1108

(The Court's decision is referenced in a "Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts Further Appellate Review" table in the North Eastern Reporter.)

Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts.

Commonwealth

v.

Angel Rivera September 10, 2004

Appeal From: 61 Mass.App.Ct. 1113, 810 N.E.2d 1288.

DENIED.

ENDORSEMENT

ANGEL RIVERA v. PAUL VERDINI 02-CV-11185-MEL

LASKER, D.J.

Respondent, Verdini, moves to dismiss this petition seeking a writ of habeas corpus for failure to exhaust state remedies. Verdini argues that because Rivera has not yet provided the state's highest court with the first opportunity to pass on the merits of these federal constitutional claims, the petition should be dismissed. 28 U.S.C. §2254(b)-(c).

"Exhaustion obligations mandate that a habeas petitioner present or do his best to present, his federal claim to the state's highest tribunal." Adelson v. DiPaola, 131 F.2d 259, 263 (1st Cir. 1997) citing United States ex rel. Kennedy v. Tyler, 269 U.S. 13, 17, 46 S.Ct. 1, 2-3, 70 L.Ed. 138 (1925); Mele v. Fitchburg Dist. Court, 850 F.2d 817, 820 (1st Cir.1988). This circuit has held that the decisive pleading is the application for further appellate review, and the Court must determine whether the petitioner fairly presented the federal claim to the SJC within the four corners of that application. Id.

After carefully reviewing Rivera's application for leave for further appellate review ("ALOFAR"), I regret to conclude that it does not meet that test. The ALOFAR fails to alert the Court to the embedded constitutional claims in his case. It does not indicate a violation of his rights under the federal or state constitution, nor does it mention case law that identifies a violation of a federal constitutional right. His analysis in the ALOFAR based entirely on state law and he failed to cite to a single federal case or authority, nor did he cite the U.S. Constitution, with the exception of one reference to the 6th amendment.

Rivera's ALOFAR is not sufficient to meet the test as set out by this Court. His argument to the SJC, while containing facts, overall is lean, and fails to "make it probable that a reasonable jurist would have been alerted to the existence of a federal question." See Scarpa v. DuBois, 38 F.3d 1, 6 (1st Cir. 1994). Rivera's only reference to a federal constitutional challenge in his ALOFAR is an isolated mention of the Sixth Amendment appearing on page 11 of his ALOFAR. He argues that, "the defendant's right to cross-examination is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment to the Constitution of

the United States and Article 12 of the Declaration of Rights of the Massachusetts Constitution." This single reference to a federal constitutional right is not sufficient.

Accordingly, Verdini's motion to dismiss on the grounds that Rivera's petition fails to meet the exhaustion requirement is granted and the Commonwealth's motion to dismiss is granted.

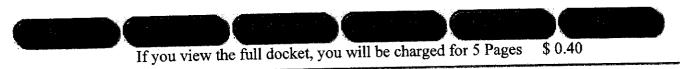
It is so ordered.

Dated:

July 29, 2003

Boston, Massachusetts

SA0048



US Court of Appeals for the First Circuit Case Summary

Court of Appeals Docket #: 03-2353

Nsuit: 3530 Prisoner: Habeas Corpus

Rivera v. Verdini, et al

Appeal from: U.S. District Court of MA

Lower court information:

lead: 02-11185 District: 0101-1: 02-11185

Ordering Judge: Morris E. Lasker

MOTION filed by Attorney Martin R. Rosenthal to be 10/23/03 appointed as counsel on appeal for Appellant Angel L.

Rivera. Certificate of service dated 10/23/03. [03-2353]

Filed: 10/2/03

(dona)

ORDER filed by Judge Kermit V. Lipez. Petitioner's motion 10/28/03

for appointment of counsel is denied. (ciny)

ORDER filed Certificate of Appealability denied in district 11/12/03

court. Denial Date: 10/24/03, CAP Memo due 11/26/03.

[03-2353] (dona)

SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD consisting of 1-26, 31-33 filed. 1/22/04

[03-2353] (dona)

JUDGMENT entered by Judge Sandra L. Lynch, Judge Kermit V. 10/28/04 We hereby deny the Lipez, Judge Jeffrey R. Howard.

petitioner's request for a certificate of appealability. To proceed on appeal, the petitioner needed to show both that "jurists of reason would find it debatable whether the

petition states a valid claim of the denial of a constitutional right and that jurists of reason would find

it debatable whether the district court was correct in its procedural ruling." Slack v. McDaniel, 529 U.S. 473, 484 (2000). He did not make the required showing. Minimally, he failed to make any showing that his Sixth Amendment rights were abridged. Even assuming, dubitante, there were

any evidentiary errors, not all evidentiary errors rise to the level of federal constitutional violations, and there were no constitutional violations here. Niziolek v. Ashe,

Appeal terminated. 694 F.2d 282 (1st Cir. 1982).

(ciny)

[03-2353] (ciny) MANDATE ISSUED. 11/18/04

RECORD consisting of pleadings #1-28, 31-33 returned to 11/18/04

originating court. (ciny)

EVENTS RELATING TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS AND TOLLING

Event	Countable Days	Total Days
Petitioner convicted	0	0
Appeals Court affirms convictions	0	0
August 20, 2001 Appeals Court affirms convictions January 3, 2002 S.J.C. denies application for further appellate review April 3, 2002 Expiration of time to seek certiorari		0
		0
Petitioner files new trial motion in state Superior Court	327	327
	0	327
Appeals Court affirms denial of new trial motion	0	327
	0	327
AEDPA'S one-year limitations period expires	38	365
	Petitioner convicted Appeals Court affirms convictions S.J.C. denies application for further appellate review Expiration of time to seek certiorari Petitioner files new trial motion in state Superior Court Superior Court denies new trial motion Appeals Court affirms denial of new trial motion S.J.C. denies application for further appellate review AEDPA'S one-year limitations	Petitioner convicted Appeals Court affirms convictions S.J.C. denies application for further appellate review Expiration of time to seek certiorari Petitioner files new trial motion in state Superior Court Superior Court denies new trial motion Appeals Court affirms denial of new trial motion S.J.C. denies application for further appellate review AEDPA'S one-year limitations 38